

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-17 are pending in the present application.

Claim 2 is canceled with this Amendment.

Claims 1, 8 and 13 are amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 2.

Claims 3 and 4 are amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 2 to present claim 1.

Claim 17 is amended to correct a typographical error and change its dependency from composition claim 12 to method claim 13.

Claims 2-4, 7, 11 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 is canceled, but independent claims 1, 8, and 13 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Claims 3-4, 7, 11 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from one of claims 1, 8 and 13. Accordingly, these claims are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of claims 3-4, 7, 11 and 16.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by DE 4318083. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 2. DE 4318083 does not teach all the elements of present claim 1.

Claim 5 depends directly from present claim 1. Accordingly, DE 4318083 does not teach all of the elements of claim 5.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 4318083.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 6,180,319 to McKeever. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 8 and 13 are amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 2. Accordingly, McKeever does not teach all of the elements of amended claims 1, 8 and 13.

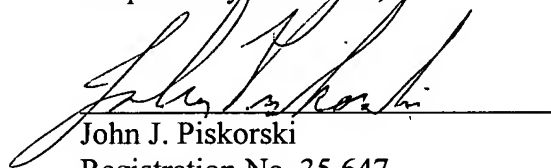
Since claims 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15 and 17 depend directly or indirectly from one of claims 1, 8 and 13, they also are not anticipated by McKeever.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. 6,180,319 to McKeever.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1, and 3-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response or this application, or should she believe this application is for any reason not yet in condition for allowance, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below in order to expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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